

1 In fact, my wife and I were even able to
2 qualify to adopt our beautiful daughter in 1983,
3 thanks in part to the financial stability that my
4 casino career has brought me.

5 My story may not be the most glamorous
6 example of the positive impact of casinos. In fact,
7 it's just one of thousands of success stories from my
8 company, Harrah's, alone.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, thank you for
10 coming and sharing that story, and I'm going to ask
11 you to submit the rest of that for the record.

12 And we now have Ms. -- is it Effie Elzey?

13 MS. ELZEY: Effie Elzey.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And Jim Mathias; is
15 that correct?

16 MS. ELZEY: Yes. I'm county commissioner
17 for Dorchester County, and I'm going to defer my
18 testimony to the mayor, but I first want to ask you to
19 consider the small counties in Maryland of which I am
20 a part, and we are a wonderful place to live and raise
21 a family.

22 I've given you written testimony of our

1 book, and I would like you if you do a fact finding
2 trip to come to Dorchester County and see what a small
3 county is like with limited resources.

4 We are the heart of the Eastern Shore, our
5 county is, but the voice of the Eastern Shore is the
6 Honorable Mayor of Ocean City, Maryland, Mr. Jim
7 Mathias.

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

9 MR. MATHIAS: Thank you, Effie.

10 Madame Chair, members of the Commission,
11 I'm here to tell you today that life is good in Ocean
12 City and on the Eastern Shore, and we want to ask your
13 help in keeping it that way.

14 As the mayor, I just want to testify that
15 Ocean City, Maryland, is the finest seaside resort in
16 our nation. Every day in our wonderful city, the
17 second largest city in the State of Maryland,
18 throughout the summer season we host citizens from the
19 entire eastern region of the United States in search
20 of the traditional seaside vacation they have come to
21 enjoy.

22 Beautiful, safe, clean, wide beaches,